

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Canceled

Claims 2-45 Previously canceled

46. (Previously presented) A method for forming an anastomosis between first and second vessels using magnetic force, the method comprising steps of:

selecting a first vessel having a lumen;
selecting a second vessel having a lumen;
securing a first anastomotic component to the first vessel;
securing a second anastomotic component to the second vessel; and
using magnetic force to create an anastomosis between the first and second vessels with the first anastomotic component contacting the second anastomotic component.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the first vessel is a coronary artery and the second vessel is a graft selected from the group consisting of natural blood vessels and vessels formed of synthetic material.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the magnetic force is sufficient to maintain the anastomosis between the first and second vessels.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein only magnetic force is used to form the anastomosis between the first and second vessels.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of maintaining a full size of an opening in the first vessel.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein each of the first and second anastomotic components includes a material selected from the group consisting of magnetic, electromagnetic and ferromagnetic materials.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of preventing the first and second anastomotic components from moving toward each other beyond a predetermined distance.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein at least one of the first and second anastomotic components is secured to a respective vessel without penetrating the tissue of the vessel.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein at least one of the first and second anastomotic components is secured to a respective vessel without everting the vessel.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the first and second anastomotic components are secured to the respective vessels without everting either vessel.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the securing step is carried out with the first anastomotic component compressing the first vessel.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising the step of forming a magnetic anastomosis between the second vessel and a third vessel so as to place the third vessel in communication with the first vessel.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the first and second anastomotic components are separate and physically unconnected.

59. (Previously presented) A method for forming an anastomosis between first and second vessels using magnetic force, the method comprising steps of:

- selecting a first vessel having a lumen;
- selecting a second vessel having a lumen;
- securing a first anastomotic component to the first vessel;
- securing a second anastomotic component to the second vessel; and

using magnetic force to create an anastomosis between the first and second vessels with the first anastomotic component contacting the second vessel.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the first vessel is a coronary artery and the second vessel is a graft selected from the group consisting of natural blood vessels and vessels formed of synthetic material.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the second vessel is a coronary artery and the first vessel is a graft selected from the group consisting of natural blood vessels and vessels formed of synthetic material.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the magnetic force is sufficient to maintain the anastomosis between the first and second vessels.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein only magnetic force is used to form the anastomosis between the first and second vessels.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of maintaining a full size of an opening in the first vessel.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein each of the first and second anastomotic components includes a material selected from the group consisting of magnetic, electromagnetic and ferromagnetic materials.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of preventing the first and second anastomotic components from moving toward each other beyond a predetermined distance.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein at least one of the first and second anastomotic components is secured to a respective vessel without penetrating the tissue of the vessel.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein at least one of the first and second anastomotic components is secured to a respective vessel without everting the vessel.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the first and second anastomotic components are secured to the respective vessels without everting either vessel.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of forming a magnetic anastomosis between the second vessel and a third vessel so as to place the third vessel in communication with the first vessel.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the first and second anastomotic components are separate and physically unconnected.